

## Summary

### *Northwest Neighborhood Center Neighborhood Conversation, October 6, 2007*

#### **Question 1: What do we already know about Grant Road?**

- Previous downtown urban renewal results in a loss of residential populations.
- Current pedestrian crosswalk at 22nd St. doesn't allow enough time for pedestrians to cross and is a safety hazard.
- Challenges with sewage, water drainage.
- No clear sidewalks and not well shaded.
- Parts of Grant Rd. have no bike lanes or are not well marked and/or are not respected by traffic. An example of better marked bike lanes is along Campbell Ave.
- From 1st Ave. to Stone Ave. there are bike lanes and then they disappear to Oracle Rd.
- Bike lanes also disappear at major Grant Rd. intersections.
- Grant Rd. is not very pretty.
- There are many local businesses in the area that people depend on: Bookman's, Walgreens.
- There are historic neighborhoods.
- Grant Rd. has many major access points for going North and South.
- The #20 bus route only runs Monday-Friday.

#### **Question 2: What characteristics along Grant Road should be preserved?**

- Not much; many of the strip shopping areas aren't well maintained.
- But the local businesses should be preserved; example: Bookman's.
- Preserve existing residential frontage roads.
- The park at the Northwest corner of Grant Rd. and Campbell Ave.: "I eat lunch there."
- Prioritize historic homes [to be preserved].
- Save the affordability of homes and businesses: example, Chinese Market at Grant Rd. & Stone Ave.

**Questions 3 and 4: What do you think with change in the future? How will these changes affect the area?**

- There will be heavier traffic; thus Grant Rd. will be less [not more] efficient, more cars and more commercial property; the pollutant level will be maintained [not improved].
- We will run out of gas/fuel or fuel will cost more; thus we will have wider bike lanes [more bikes], more public transportation, a bigger Harley dealership [on Grant Rd.]; also, we will have more smaller businesses, specialty stores, Mom & Pop shops.
- Water harvesting and desert water use means Grant Rd. can be an example of reusing storm water, traffic mitigation, sidewalks that have natural vegetation, shaded bus stops.
- Population in Tucson will increase so more will be using Grant Rd. (this will be a benefit to Speedway Blvd.)
- The I-10 Freeway expansion will be completed so what will the impact on Grant Rd. be?
- Solar lighting will be used more which will improve the optical sciences/astronomy industry/profession.

**Question 5: What characteristics along Grant Road should be changed?**

- Add signage or color/shape of lighting to geographically identify Grant Rd. area's uniqueness.
- Use water harvesting.
- For a buffer zone, add a park such as Campbell Ave., Grant Rd. to Elm St.
- Need to expand bus service; specifically, #20.
- Add parking to Campbell Ave./Grant Rd. pocket park.
- Put local businesses into historic homes.
- Use solar lighting on a pedestrian scale.
- Use pedestrian and bicycle friendly design.
- Use better/natural vegetation.
- Use storyboards to "tell the story" of Grant Rd. – past and present, how all of us "came together."
- Lights on Grant Rd. could be shaped, designed or colored to be "signature" of the area.
- Urban trail (like the Downtown walking tour) with information and stories of the area; engage with the Historical Society to talk about "then and now."
- Public art, murals, mosaics – this is part of the RTA contract.
- Involve community participation in selecting art; involve local and historic stories.
- Drinking fountains for pedestrians and by bus stops.
- Use water harvesting with installed drinking fountains.
- Underground utilities – electric, phone, cable.
- Safer traffic for pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles; improve drivers' behaviors and awareness of other modes of traffic.
- Need pedestrian crossing at Grant Rd. intersections at 1st Ave. and 6th Ave.; need HAWK lighting.
- Need longer timed crosswalks at intersections with timed clock and aural warning signal (for visually impaired).

## Question 6: What do we fear and hope for along Grant Road?

### FEARS —

- Redevelopment may become gentrified with higher taxes and this will move out current businesses and residents.
- Loss of businesses and services such as Kent's Tools, Mandarin Grill.
- Loss of parking for businesses.
- Even with wider Grant Rd. there will be more traffic and less efficiency than there is now.
- What will happen to neighborhoods during construction; i.e. cut-through traffic?
- What will happen to neighborhoods after construction; i.e. need traffic calming?

### HOPES —

- Water harvesting with neighborhoods.
- It will be a safer place to walk, drive, and bike.
- I hope to live to see it happen.
- Can use alternative technologies for paving that's more permeable, for example: rubberized asphalt for noise mitigation.
- Use new technologies such as solar lighting.
- It would be greener, more shaded with trees; would be quieter.
- Less polluted due to more planted trees.
- Lower taxes.

**SUMMARY:** Change will occur, but we want to keep and identify the area's uniqueness.